Specification Amendments

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 7-34 with the following amended paragraph to correct a typographical error:

An example of a call flow in accordance with the present invention is as follows. The MTA 115 detects an off/on hook transition and sends a message ~~top~~ to the CMTS 103 announcing the off/on hook transition. This message may be transmitted over mini-slots, as described above, or via other communication protocols, such as UDP, or other cable modem CMTS communication methods. The CMTS 103 forwards the message to a call agent, such as a local telephone switch 101, where a dedicated PCM channel is allocated to a network component that enables generation of dial tone and digit collection. The call agent 101 signals back to the CMTS 103 with a dedicated timeslot to use in support of the calling party. The CMTS 103 then utilizes the TDM (time-division multiplexed) channel information to allocate the appropriate mini-slots and MPEG streams for communication with the MTA 115. The CMTS 103 forwards the mini-slot information to the MTA 115, where the MTA 115 synchronizes PCM sampling with the mini-slots and starts transmitting voice samples. At the same time, the MTA 115 starts retrieving PCM samples carried on an MPEG stream and starts playback on an appropriate line (e.g., dial tone is carried from the local telephone switch 101 to the phone as PCM data. The phone 117 is now connected, sharing PCM data with the network component to apply dial tone and collect digits. As the customer dials the phone 117, the MTA does not have to perform digit collection, but simply collects PCM samples and forwards them to the network component, which applies dial tone and collects digits as needed for the call flow based on the customer's dialing plan. Once all digits are collected and passed to the call agent 101, the call agent 101 routes the call and moves the PCM stream coming from the MTA 115 to the TDM switch 101, where the TDM stream is routed based on the called number. Once the call is completed and the MTA 115 detects an on-hook condition, the MTA 115 sends a message to the switch 101 and call processing proceeds based on the customer's call features.